

Summary of HRD # 7SS-MM006

- **Purpose:** Increase access and affordability of child care for more lower income, critical sector workers through a Basic Sliding Fee Investment
- **This bill prioritizes families and frontline workers by investing \$ 11.5M into the waiting list for Basic Sliding Fee, a program funded by appropriations to the Child Care Assistance Program.**
 - For example, we heard from a child care provider this week – who had two staff that qualify for Child Care Assistance and are on the waitlist. They are experiencing staff challenges based on their own staff’s access to affordable child care.
 - This proposal is a way to support the frontline worker, low-income family, and create more demand in the child care industry.
- **Reprioritization language included in this bill directs funds to families who are not being served.**
 - Normally, counties work through priorities and serve families leaving MFIP Transition Year child funding before families who are not served at all. This language allows counties to reach new families who are normally the last priorities, faster and focus on essential worker access now.
 - Without this language, it takes counties longer to reach new families. For example if this bill passes, around 270 TYE families (who are families being served), can be moved to the Basic Sliding Fee Program about 2 months later, using an estimated \$ 1.5 M funds. Counties with waiting lists, in turn, will turn their attention to reaching the 1,500+ families not being served.
- **About 575 new families could be served, soon.**
 - Counties and tribes manage their spending to protect commitments made each calendar year. Typically, families are added at the start of a calendar year and counties and tribes closely monitor the availability of funds. This addition of one time funding with reprioritization language, provided early in 2021, allows time for counties and tribes to plan accordingly to protect CY2022 potential commitments.
 - Of the estimated 1,500 families not being served and on waiting lists; 82% of those families work in critical sectors. If 1/3 of those families respond to the application and become eligible, as typically happens, a number of counties may at least clear out their waiting lists with this new money.
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